PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula acknowledge the lasting impacts of racism in the United States, fueled largely by the horrific institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States for more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863, and months after the end of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free, and African Americans have celebrated this anniversary, known as Juneteenth Independence Day, for more than 150 years to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development, respect and dignity for all people; and

WHEREAS, the character demonstrated by former slaves should inspire us in this country to give thanks for the freedom won by so many people in all nations and to strive for the goals of bringing freedom and democracy to people of other countries no matter what their race or religion; and

WHEREAS, although Juneteenth Independence Day is starting to be recognized as a national and even global event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten, and Montana proudly joins the 50 states and the District of Columbia in observing Juneteenth as a state or ceremonial holiday.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Missoula County and the City of Missoula, do hereby proclaim the 19th of June as

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

to commemorate African-American emancipation from slavery, celebrate the freedom won by people in many countries and rededicate ourselves to the cause of liberty.

DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

CITY OF MISSOULA

Andrea Davis, Mayor

COUNTY OF MISSOULA

Josh Slotnick, Chair

David Strohmaier, Commissioner

Juanita Vero, Commissioner